



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Water Rights

KENT L. JONES
State Engineer/Division Director

November 24, 2009

Kristopher Blanchard
Deep Creek Water Commissioner
HC 67 Box 7
Lapoint, UT 84039

RE: Deep Creek Annual Commissioner Report Submittal

Dear Kris:

It was good to visit with you on the Deep Creek System in July with Andrew Dutson from our Vernal Office. It appears that you have quickly become very familiar with the facilities on this system. I understand and share your concerns regarding how to best report the water deliveries during the 2009 irrigation season. Your efforts in reporting are most important because they show, to the best of your knowledge, both the quantity of water available and who received it and are also a requirement under state laws and rules.

I am aware of some of the challenges you face with reporting deliveries of Deep Creek and Mosby Irrigation Company water during the irrigation season. I've mentioned some ideas on how to have the water users follow set schedules or guidelines that may help enable an accounting of the available water. As you gain experience and work with the water users to understand their needs and gain their cooperation, both the system operation and the reporting should improve in the future. I am certainly open to any recommendations you may have on how to best accomplish the reporting for the Deep Creek system. If I can provide any further guidance or help implement needed system improvements please let me know.

The annual Deep Creek meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2010 at Lapoint. Typically the commissioner distributes copies of his annual report of water deliveries at this meeting. Having the data in our database prior to the meeting enables the water users to review their data before the meeting. I would like to establish this meeting for the due date for your report, but would recommend that you complete it well before the annual meeting if possible. As a place to start, I recommend that you create an Excel spreadsheet containing the regulated users on the system and the approximate or measured amount of water they each receive on a daily basis throughout the irrigation season and whatever other information you would like to include. If I receive your spreadsheet well before the annual meeting, I can have the data entered into our database, and printouts from the database can make up most of your annual report. The report documents your responsibilities and efforts, realizing some diversions are combined and it is the responsibility of the water users to distribute water after it is diverted to their diversions. There is good reason to identify and report both the Mosby and Deep Creek water deliveries separately, realizing the distribution of Mosby water is part of your duties as the water commissioner. The records are essential. It is also good to report reservoir contents and storage releases observed.



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Because this is your first commissioner report and there is a new reservoir on this system, it is recommended that you include the reservoir elevation-capacity charts that you use for Red Wash and Julius Park in your 2009 annual report. These tables would not necessarily need to be included in future reports unless they are changed or updated. It is also recommended that you report a listing of the measuring devices, control structures, or access issues that need to be improved to enable you to better fulfill your commissioner responsibilities without unnecessary delay. These may be included as a listing the owner(s) responsible in each annual report.

I am looking forward to receiving your data file and report. I realize that there are some unknowns involved with this system operation and that some estimating is necessary to complete the reporting. Please feel free to discuss any concerns or challenges you may have with your reporting with me. I will be glad to help find workable solutions to any challenges you may have and share ideas from similar challenges experienced elsewhere. If you would like to add a record rating for each station (e.g. Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor) to indicate how reliable the data is, we can include it as part of your reporting. As these records improve they become more helpful.

Your efforts as the commissioner are important and appreciated by our office and the water users on the Deep Creek System. If you have any questions regarding your reporting, please feel free to call me (Monday-Thursday 7:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.) at (801) 538-7469 or E-mail benanderson@utah.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben L. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ben" being more prominent.

Ben L. Anderson

Water Rights Distribution Engineer

cc: Robert Leake, Regional Engineer
Lee Sim, Assistant State Engineer for Field Services